

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of depleting a high-abundance molecule from a biological sample, comprising the steps of:
 - a) subjecting the sample to affinity depletion using an affinity support with high affinity for the high abundance molecule; and
 - b) ~~immunodepletion~~ immunodepleting using an affinity support coupled to an avian antibody directed against the high-abundance molecule.
2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, in which the antibody is a chicken antibody.
3. (Currently amended) A method according to ~~claim 1 or~~ claim 2, in which the antibody is chicken IgY.
4. (Currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, in which the avian antibody used in step (b) is a first generation polyclonal antibody raised against whole serum or plasma, or against any fraction thereof.
5. (Currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, in which the avian antibody used in step (b) is a second or higher generation polyclonal antibody raised against plasma or serum which has already been subjected to at least one round of affinity depletion and immunodepletion with an affinity support coupled to IgY directed against homologous plasma or serum.
6. (Currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, in which step (a) is performed before step (b).

7. (Currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, in which the high abundance molecule is a protein.

8. (Currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 7, in which the protein is albumin or immunoglobulin.

9. (Currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, in which the biological sample is a biological fluid.

10. (Currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, in which the biological sample is conditioned medium from a cell or tissue culture, or is a tissue or cell extract.

11. (Currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1, in which the affinity support used in step (a) is a dye affinity chromatography resin.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 11, in which the dye is a chlorotriazine compound.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 12, in which the affinity support is a Cibacron blue F3GA affinity support.

14. (Currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1, in which the affinity support used in step (a) is a magnetic bead and the magnetic separation is effected by magnetic means.

15. (Currently amended) A method of separation or analysis of a low abundance molecule in a biological sample, comprising the step of depleting at least one high abundance molecule from the sample by a method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 14~~ claim 1, prior to subjecting the sample to one or more separation or analytical steps for the separation or analysis of the low abundance molecule.

16. (Currently amended) A method of identifying the expression of a low abundance molecule in a mammal, comprising the step of depleting at least one high abundance molecule from a biological sample from the mammal by a method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 14~~ claim 1, prior to subjecting the sample one or more analytical steps to detect the expression of the low abundance molecule.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 16, detects which a change in the expression of the low abundance molecule.

18. (Original) A composition for immunodepletion of a high abundance molecule from a biological sample, comprising an avian antibody preparation directed against the high abundance molecule, coupled to an affinity support.

19. (Original) A composition according to claim 18, in which the avian antibody is a chicken antibody.

20. (Currently amended) A composition according to claim 18 ~~or 19~~, in which the avian antibody is chicken IgY.

21. (Currently amended) A composition according to ~~any one of claims 18 to 20~~ claim 18, in which the avian antibody is a first generation polyclonal antibody.

22. (Original) A composition according to claim 21, in which the antibody is a second or higher generation polyclonal antibody.

23. (Currently amended) A composition according to ~~any one of claims 18 to 22~~ claim 18, in which the high abundance molecule is one present in serum or plasma.

24. (Original) A composition according to claim 23, in which the high abundance molecule is albumin or immunoglobulin.

25. (Original) A device for the rapid processing of biological samples, comprising a chamber having two openings, in which
- a) each opening is adapted to fit sealingly to a receptacle,
 - b) the sample can be transferred from one receptacle to the other via the chamber, and
 - c) the chamber has transversely disposed within it an affinity support having high affinity for a high abundance molecule and an affinity support coupled to one or more avian antibodies directed against the high abundance molecule.
26. (Original) A device according to claims 25, in which the antibody is a chicken antibody.
27. (Original) A device according to claim 26, in which the antibody is chicken IgY.
28. (Currently amended) A device according to ~~any one of claims 25 to 27~~ claim 25, in which the antibody is a first generation avian polyclonal antibody.
29. (Currently amended) A device according to ~~any one of claims 25 to 27~~ claim 25, in which the antibody is a second generation avian polyclonal antibody.
30. (Currently amended) A device according to ~~any one of claims 25 to 29~~ claim 25, in which the high abundance molecule is one present in serum or plasma.
31. (Original) A device according to claim 30, in which the high abundance molecule is albumin or immunoglobulin.
32. (Currently amended) A device according to ~~any one of claims 25 to 31~~ claim 25, in which the receptacles are hypodermic syringes and the chamber is a Luer-type cartridge.
33. (Currently amended) A device according to ~~any one of claims 25 to 32~~ claim 25, in which the chamber is adapted to couple directly to a separation or analytical apparatus.

34. (Original) A kit for depletion of a high-abundance molecule from a biological sample, comprising:

- a) a first affinity support with high affinity for the high-abundance molecule; and
- b) a second affinity support coupled to an avian antibody directed against the high-abundance molecule.

35. (Original) A kit according to claim 34, in which the antibody is a chicken antibody.

36. (Original) A kit according to claim 35, in which the antibody is chicken IgY.

37. (Currently amended) A kit according to ~~any one of claims 34 to 36~~ claim 34, in which the antibody is a first generation avian polyclonal antibody.

38. (Currently amended) A kit according to ~~any one of claims 34 to 36~~ claim 34, in which the antibody is a second generation avian polyclonal antibody.

39. (Currently amended) A kit according to ~~any one of claims 34 to 38~~ claim 34, in which the high abundance molecule is one present in serum or plasma.

40. (Original) A kit according to claim 39, in which the high abundance molecule is albumin or immunoglobulin.

41. (Currently amended) A kit according to ~~any one of claims 34 to 40~~ claim 34, comprising a ~~device according any one of claims 25 to 33~~ chamber having two openings, in which

- a) each opening is adapted to fit sealingly to a receptacle,
- b) the sample can be transferred from one receptacle to the other via the chamber, and
- c) the chamber has transversely disposed within it an affinity support having

high affinity for a high abundance molecule and an affinity support coupled to one or more avian antibodies directed against the high abundance molecule.

42. (Currently amended) A kit according to ~~any one of claims 34 to 41~~ claim 34, comprising a diluent suitable for use with biological fluids.